THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: That is exactly the way of people who want to do many things, good or bad. Several people proclaim that they are very very good friends of the Ministers and that they have the authority of Ministers. They go about saying this to secure various advantages.

Training of Tamil Pandits in the Teachers' College, Saidapet

* 107 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of seats provided for training of Tamil Pandits at the Teachers' College, Saidapet;

(*b*) the number of candidates that applied for admission to the last course held there for such training;

(*c*) the number of II-A Vidwans among such applicants; and

(*d*) the number of II-A Vidwans selected?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) Usually 40 to 45 candidates are admitted to each course, which is of five months' duration.

(*b*) Ninety-five for the second course conducted in 1955-56.

(*c*) Six.

(*d*) Nil.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI: May I know whether the Teachers' College cannot provide for training double the number of Tamil Pandits that are usually admitted now?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It depends upon the requirements also. We cannot train them and leave them without employment.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI: May I know why no II-A Vidwan was selected when there were six applicants?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As the hon. Member is aware, II-A Vidwans have taken Sanskrit as their main subject, and not any other language as subsidiary subject. But this course was for Tamil Pandits. So, it was thought that persons who had taken Tamil for their main study would be preferable to persons who had taken Sanskrit as their main subject.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI: In view of the fact that II-A Vidwans are equally qualified in Tamil and Sanskrit and are eligible for this training, is it not obligatory on the part of the Government to just encourage these II-A Vidwans who are doubly qualified rather than others?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It depends upon the subject they had taken. Tamil Pandits should have specialized in Tamil. Apart from the training they have for becoming Tamil Pandits, persons seeking admission to such a training should have some basic knowledge of Tamil.

3-10 p.m. SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : As they are already qualified both in Sanskrit and in Tamil, they can be admitted if Government so desire. If not, will the Government be pleased to provide separate training for the Sanskrit Pandits or at least exempt these Pandits from such training for promotion to the first grade?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is a different matter and the hon. Member may put a separate question, Sir.

Text-books in non-language subjects in Forms I to III

* 108 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the use of prescribed text-books in respect of non-language subjects in Forms I to III is compulsory; and

(*b*) if so, the orders issued by the Government in this regard?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The use of prescribed text-books by pupils is essential, though not compulsory.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : Will the Government please allow such of those schools or classes as could pull on without these text-books to do so without departmental interference or compulsion?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, the question is not whether they would be able to carry on without text-books. I do agree that if we have got well-equipped teachers, they may be able to do without text-books. But generally it will be good to have text-books and we have not made it compulsory, but we have said that it would be good if they have text-books.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : Sir, in view of the fact that the prescription of these text-books has resulted in less regard for the teacher, loss of memory and inattention in class, will the Governmemnt, as a first step, abolish the use of text-books for History, Mathematics and English Grammar in Form I and then gradually extend it to Forms II and III?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I am not prepared to subscribe to what the hon. Member has stated. Perhaps it may be his opinion and I do not know whether other experts would agree with him in thinking that the prescription of text-books tends to make the students forgetful or disobedient to their teachers. That is a different problem and that has to be tackled in a different way and not by abolishing text-books.